

ParkWays

Volume 6, Issue 3

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Parks

Fall 2000

McKeown to Create Masterpiece at Krohn's Fall Show

This year's Fall Show, *Denny McKeown's Backyard Retreat*, at Krohn Conservatory, September 8 through November 12, will be a breathtaking, colorful Midwestern autumn landscape, created by none other than the well-known Denny McKeown. McKeown is well-known to many Cincinnatians and Kentuckians as an expert on gardening and landscaping, and the owner of Denny McKeown's Bloomin' Garden Centre.



McKeown will use his expertise to create this year's Fall Show.

McKeown has incorporated many of the fall blooming perennials with trees and shrubs that offer dazzling autumn color. In addition to being beautiful, this show will be especially helpful to Midwest home owners. They will be able to see what plant material can be used in their own yards to create fall wonderlands.

During the Fall Show, the Bonsai Society of Cincinnati will present the Fall Bonsai Display. Quickly becoming a Krohn favorite, the Bonsai Display will be exhibited from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on October 21 and 22. Japanese maples, sugar maples and ginkos are just a few of the many different kinds of trees that will be on display in full fall color.

Krohn Conservatory is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on this year's Fall Show and Krohn's other fall exhibits, please call (513)421-5707. ♦

Spotlight on New Director of Parks

The Cincinnati Park Board welcomes Willie F. Carden, Jr. as its new Director of Parks. A City employee for 13 years, Mr. Carden joined Parks this past July. With support from the Park Board and Park staff, Mr. Carden is responsible for the management of the City's park system — more than 5,000 acres of greenspace encompassing 60 neighborhood parks, regional parks such as Eden Park and Mt. Airy Forest, more than 30 nature preserves and numerous community greenspaces. He also will manage the City's urban forestry program, as well as assist in the planning, development and implementation of current and future Park projects.

"I look at my new role as if I was the coach of a team," said Mr. Carden. "I take input from and use the support of the system's 'owners' (the residents of Cincinnati and the Park Board) and work with the 'players' (Park employees) to create a successful system."

"Defensively, I want to ensure the cleanliness, safety and overall reliability of Parks," he continued. "Offensively, I want to be a part of future initiatives that will benefit both the local community and the region."

"Mr. Carden brings strong administrative and leadership skills to Parks," said Marian



The Cincinnati Park Board welcomes Willie F. Carden, Jr. as its new Director of Parks. Mr. Carden joined Parks in July and will oversee direction of the city's park system.

Lindberg, President of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners. "We are pleased to have him in the position of Director at a time when our department faces a record number of challenges and capital improvement projects."

Prior to assuming office, Mr. Carden served as the manager of the Facility Management division of the City's General Services Department. His responsibilities included the management of more than 80 City buildings and structures. He also was responsible for coordinating the recent renovation of the Fountain Square Plaza and the restoration of the Tyler Davidson Fountain. Before joining the Department of General Services, Mr. Carden served as manager of Riverfront Stadium, as Superintendent of Sanitation, City

Manager Intern and as a Personnel Analyst in labor relations for the City. He is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, with a degree in economics.

"I am excited about working with such a dedicated group of people and for an organization that is so passionate about its mission," added Mr. Carden. "I hope to continue the momentum of the Board of Park Commissioners, Park staff, the City Manager and City Council."

The Park Board began its search for a new director when Jack Wilson left the position in summer, 1999. Steven Schuckman served as Acting Director and has since returned to his position as Park Superintendent of Planning and Administration. ♦



There is a loftier

ambition than

merely to stand

high in the world.

It is to stoop down

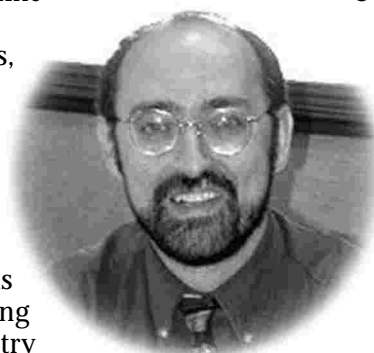
and lift mankind

a little higher.

—Henry Van Dyke

Parks Welcomes New Superintendent of Operations

The Cincinnati Park Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Gerald Checco as Superintendent of Operations. A nine-year veteran of Cincinnati Parks, Checco's new responsibilities will include managing the maintenance of the parks and their facilities, as well as overseeing the Urban Forestry program and natural resource management.



"Gerald was the natural choice for this position," said Marian Lindberg, President of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners. "He brings with him not only experience, but an energy and creativity which will be an invaluable asset during the implementation of the Parks Master Plan."

"For the last ten years, Cincinnati Parks has been focused on planning for the

future," said Checco. "I hope to play a large part in fulfilling these plans while also developing the skills needed to operate current parks and facilities."

Prior to his position of superintendent, Checco served as Cincinnati Park's Engineer. His responsibilities included managing the capital budget, the Facility Maintenance Program, park master plan management, park engineering and graphic design. Checco also served as Acting Superintendent of Planning and Administration from August, 1999 until July, 2000. ♦

Above: Gerald Checco, new Superintendent of Operations.

“Stand By Stanbery” Showcases Success of Advisory Councils

Margie Slagle is one busy lady. With three children under age 8, she still found the time to raise \$25,000 for the completion of a Master Plan for Stanbery Park.

“I have fond childhood memories of Stanbery Park, as does everyone who grew up in this area,” said Margie. “I was very interested in bringing back some of the park’s aspects that I remember, so my children and all the residents of Mt. Washington and Anderson could enjoy them.”

Slagle heard from the Mt. Washington Community Council that renovations were planned for Stanbery Park, and was very interested in becoming involved. Together with Ty Easley, a nearby resident of Anderson and Cincinnati Parks advocate, she approached Cincinnati Parks administration.

“They told me the first step was to form an Advisory Council for Stanbery,” said Slagle. “Believe me, it wasn’t hard — many people were eager to be involved.”

Cincinnati Parks advisory councils act as links between Parks administration and the park’s neighbors. Slagle and Easley spoke with administrators of the Park Board and Parks Foundation about the role of Stanbery Park Advisory Council, and the group was charged with raising \$25,000 — half the cost it would take for Parks to develop a Master Plan for Stanbery Park. The Master Plan would outline all of the improvements planned for the park over the next several years. In less than six months, Slagle spearheaded the *Stand By Stanbery* campaign and raised the necessary funds.

Cincinnati Parks planners now will meet with community members to solicit feedback about possible improvements. Park planners will then incorporate these ideas with the overall Cincinnati Parks Master Plan. Planners will talk with the community several times until a consensus is reached.

“I encourage anyone who lives near a Cincinnati park, or frequents one on a regular basis, to get involved,” said Slagle. “Find out if your park has an advisory council. If it does, volunteer to help. If it doesn’t, ask Parks how to organize one. It’s so rewarding to be involved in something that so many people enjoy on a daily basis.”

For more information on existing advisory councils, or how to start one in your neighborhood, please call Larry Annett at the Park Board at 513-357-2602, or reach him via e-mail at larry.annett@cinparks.rcc.org. ♦



*It takes a noble
man to plant a seed
for a tree that will
some day give
shade to people he
may never meet.*
—David Trueblood

Butterfly Gala a Success



Lynda Thomas, Butterfly Gala Chair, makes a presentation to Otto M. Budig, Jr., who was honored for his support of the Parks Foundation and the Butterfly Show.

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation’s third Butterfly Gala, chaired by Lynda Thomas, was a fluttering success, with

perfect weather and over 300 attendees. Local artists decorated butterfly houses, which were auctioned off at a

Silent Auction, chaired by Susan Anthony. Through attendance and the Silent Auction, the Parks Foundation raised over \$32,000 at the 2000 Butterfly Gala, which honored Otto M. Budig, Jr. for his support of the Parks Foundation and Butterfly Show. Half of this year’s proceeds will assist Krohn Conservatory in funding the Butterfly Show.

Gala Presenting Sponsors included: Ernst & Young, Fort Washington Investment Advisors and the Zaring Family Foundation. Corporate sponsors included: Cinergy Foundation, Delta Air Lines, Federated Department Stores, Inc., Fifth Third Bank, Frost & Jacobs LLP, Holland Communications, LOTTERY.COM, PNC Advisors, Schiff, Kreidler-Shell, Inc., and Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP. ♦

Powerful Partnerships

Partnerships Help Students Experience Nature

Cincinnati Parks, in partnership with Greenacres Foundation, received a grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation enabling children from three Cincinnati schools to conduct water-quality testing in the Parks, thanks to the Joan Jones Portman Nature Enrichment Fund and the William R. Schott Family Fund. The grant will enable teachers to receive professional development training, the three schools to receive water-testing equipment and the students to receive hands-on experience in environmental science led by Cincinnati Park naturalists.

In addition, Avon Woods Nature Center will be working with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Inc. throughout the upcoming school year to provide programs on recycling. Every week this fall and spring, students will tour a local landfill, then travel to Avon Woods to experience how nature recycles energy, air and water, and learn how they can improve their home recycling efforts.

Park’s Nature Education Section continually seeks new ways to help Cincinnatians discover nature, their parks and the local environment. Look for more good news in future ParkWays. ♦

Sister Cities



Park Board staff and representatives from the Parks Foundation met with groups from Cincinnati’s sister cities Taipei-Hsien, Munich and Gifu in June. The meetings were a success, with all three cities showing interest to assist in the creation of features in the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park.

History in the Parks



Pictured here in the 1950s, Cincinnati Parks naturalist Hester Stephenson stargazes with a group of young students at Wolff Planetarium. This year, Wolff Planetarium at Trailside Nature Center celebrates its 50th anniversary. Presented to Parks in 1950 by Olga Wolff in memory of her brother Clifford R. Wolff, the Planetarium was the first of its kind in the city. Today, Wolff Planetarium continues to navigate astronomy enthusiasts through the night sky with educational programs focusing on constellations and planets and the fascinating folklore behind them. For information regarding these programs, please call (513) 751-3679.

Member Activites

Friends of Cincinnati Parks Member Activities

Parks with Overlooks Bus Tour
Meet at Eden Park
Administration Building
September 10, 1 - 3 p.m.
Free to Patrons and Partners
\$3 for other “Friends”
\$5 for general public
Reservation required

This guided van tour will take you to numerous Cincinnati Parks with overlooks, including Eden, Mt. Echo, Mt. Storm, Bellevue, Jackson Hill, Ault, Alms, Drake, Fairview and Larz Anderson. Enjoy the view on this educational experience!

Caldwell Three Ridges Hike
Meet at Caldwell Nature Preserve
Parking Lot
October 29, 1 - 3 p.m.

This challenging, guided hike starts and ends in the Caldwell Nature Preserve parking lot and features all three ridges with trails in the Preserve. Free and open to members only.

Straucht and the Volksgarten Lecture
Ault Park Pavillion
November 15, 7 p.m.
Presentation by Jim Fearing
Free for Sponsors, Patrons and Partners
\$3 for other “Friends”
\$5 for general public

Holiday Wreath Crafts
Warder Nursery
December 8, 1 - 3 p.m.
Free for Patrons and Partners
\$5 for other “Friends”
\$10 for general public
Covers the cost of wreath supplies

Come experience the fun of creating your very own nature wreath, just in time for the holidays.

All events free to Friends of Cincinnati Parks members unless otherwise noted.
For information or reservations, call 357-2619.♦

Projects in the Parks

The Rebirth of Kilgour Fountain

Cincinnati Parks is taking the 100-year-old Kilgour Fountain back to its roots. Treasured as one of Hyde Park’s most prominent landmarks and an important symbol of the historic suburb's identity, Kilgour Fountain will undergo renovation as the Park Board restores the fountain to its original design.

Charles H. Kilgour, a street railway magnate, presented Kilgour Fountain to the Hyde Park community in 1900 as a peace offering to those residents who were unhappy with newly laid railway tracks on Erie Avenue. Over the years, the fountain and Hyde Park Square have undergone several renovations.

“Unfortunately, some of the modifications made in past renovation efforts were poorly conceived,” said Doug Fraser, Park Board Senior Landscape Architect. “Our goals in revisiting the initial plans are to both preserve the characteristics intended by the turn-of-the-century architects and contribute to the longevity of the fountain.”

Enhancements faithful to the original design include replacing the four copper bowls with two stone bowls and installing a new oval lower basin to reflect the original historic base. Other improvements include enhanced lighting and water spray elements.

These renovation efforts are contingent upon the receipt of private funds. The Cincinnati Parks Foundation has asked Marian Barrett Leibold to lead the campaign to restore this community treasure. If you are interested in contributing to the restoration of Kilgour Fountain, please contact the Parks Foundation at (513) 357-2619. ♦



Above: Kilgour Fountain has been enjoyed by Hyde Park neighbors for 100 years.

People in the Parks

“Checkmates” Found in Eden Park

Calling all chess enthusiasts! Although no one knows when the tradition began, players of this intense game have been gathering at Eden Park’s Twin Lakes overlook for years to play the game they truly enjoy.

James Cook, a frequent participant, feels that these gatherings continue because of the increased popularity of the game.

“The types of people who play are mostly self-taught, not the tournament-trained players,” says Mr. Cook. “With all of the complex computer games out there, chess offers the classic challenge.”

Games begin at 4:30 p.m. every day from March through November. Players range in age from late teens to mid-60s, and possess a variety of skill levels. Play is strictly on a recreational level. Participants bring their own boards, set up at picnic tables and usually play until dark. ♦



Above: (left to right, foreground) Larry Whittle and Jim Cook enjoy the summer weather and a friendly game of chess.

Message from the Park Board

Dear *ParkWays* Readers:

The Board of Park Commissioners is pleased to announce the appointment of its exciting new administrative team: Park Director, Willie Carden; Superintendent of Planning, Steve Schuckman; and Superintendent of Operations, Gerald Checco.

After a lengthy national search for the best individual to fill the positions of Director and Superintendent of Operations in our park system, we found the best “in our own back yard.” Add to the team Steve Schuckman, who so capably served as Acting Director during the eleven month search, and the Park Department is ready to take on the challenges facing us in the months and years ahead.

The scope of these challenges is impressive. Ground will be broken later this year on the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park on the riverfront; planning continues for the Otto Armleder Park and Recreation Complex on the Little Miami River; concerned parties continue to explore options for the development of the central riverfront park areas, and neighborhood park projects abound, spurred on by Advisory Councils. These efforts include a new playground in Ault Park, general upgrading of facilities at Stanbery Park, a new water line at Magrish Riverlands Preserve on the Little Miami and a playground and general improvements at Glenway Park.

Add to the above the enhancement of highway approaches to Cincinnati (now under Park management), Urban Forestry’s innovative canopy assessment project and the ongoing maintenance of our 5,000 acre Park system. A less capable team might be daunted, but Willie, Steve and Gerald are not only able, they are upbeat and raring to go.

We believe that our Park Department has never been in better hands and its future has never looked brighter or more exciting.

Enjoy your parks. They are truly very special.

Sincerely,

Marian J. Lindberg
*President
Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners*

Programs in the Parks

September 20 - November 19

Nature Hikes & Programs

Millennium Walk
Rawson Woods
September 23, 3- 4 p.m.
Mt. Echo Park
October 14, 3 - 4 p.m.
Owl Nest Park
November 18, 3 - 4 p.m.

Sunset Stroll
French Park
September 29, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

*Honey Harvest
California Woods Nature Preserve
September 30, 4 - 6 p.m.

Nature’s Wildest Tales
Caldwell Nature Preserve
October 6, 8 - 9:30 p.m.

Get Hooked On Fishing!
Burnet Woods Lake
October 7, 10 a.m. - noon

Full Moon Rising
Rapid Run Park Board
October 13, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Triskaldekaphobia Campfire
California Woods Nature Preserve
October 13, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Fall Walk
Buttercup Valley
October 14, 1 - 3 p.m.
Little Duck Creek Park
November 5, 1 - 3 p.m.

No Backbone At All!
Krohn Conservatory
October 15, 1 & 3 p.m.

“Wild in the City”
Tanglewood Park
October 15, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Fossilized Fun
McFarlan Woods
October 21, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Fall Foliage
Ault Park
October 25, 6 - 7 p.m.

Halloween Hikes
Caldwell Nature Preserve
October 27 & 28, 7 - 9 p.m.

Fungus Among Us
McFarlan Woods
November 4, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

What a Seedy Season!
Alms Park
November 4, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

LaBoiteaux Woods Walk
LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Preserve
November 5, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Planetarium Anniversary
Trailside Nature Center (Burnet Woods)
November 5, 1 - 4 p.m.

Cold Weather Comin’
Kennedy Park
November 11, 1 - 3 p.m.

Yesterday’s Scrapbook;
Tomorrow’s Promise
French Park
November 12, 1 - 3 p.m.

*Thanksgiving Traditions
Trailside Nature Center (Burnet Woods)
November 17, 7 - 8 p.m.

Air Plants
Krohn Conservatory
November 19, 1 & 3 p.m.

Fall Scavenger Hunt
Rapid Run Park
November 19, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

For more information on any of these programs, call 321-6070 ext. 10.

Krohn Exhibits

Fall Show
September 8 - November 12

Orchid Display
September 30, noon - 5 p.m.
October 1

Fall Bonsai Display
October 21 & 22

Fall End of Show Sale
November 13, 10 a.m.

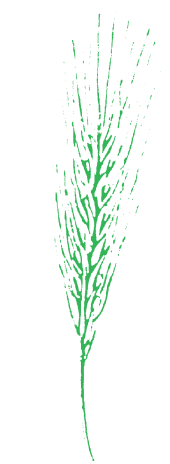
For more information on Krohn Exhibits, call 421-5707.
All exhibits open during regular Krohn hours, unless otherwise noted.

**Fee for admission.*



What is the use of
living, if it not be
to strive for noble
causes and to
make this
muddled world a
better place for
those who will
live in it after
we are gone?

– Sir Winston Churchill



Autumn is a
second spring
when every leaf
is a flower.

— Albert Camus

Krohn’s Holiday Show Warms Hearts

This winter, warm up with one of Cincinnati’s favorite holiday traditions — the Cincinnati Parks’ annual Holiday Show. This year’s show is presented by Cinergy and will feature a breath-taking poinsettia display and miniature holiday trains. The show is sure to delight visitors young and old.

The Holiday Show is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily from November 23 through December 30 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from December 31 through January 7. For more information, call (513) 421-5707. ♦

The Sky’s the Limit

The dusk hours set the perfect backdrop for a hot air balloon glow in one of the city’s most scenic parks. Cincinnati Parks’ annual Balluminaria — a festival full of hot air balloons lit from within — returns to Mirror Lake in Eden Park to kick off the holiday season on December 2 from 4-7 p.m. ♦

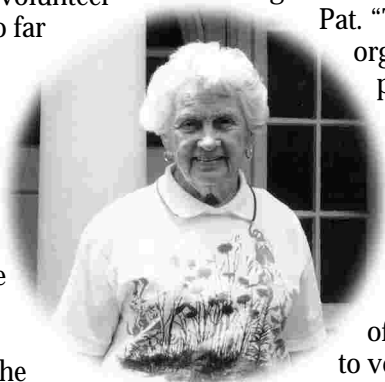
Volunteer’s Devotion Shows Her Love of the Parks

Pat Campbell, a Cincinnati Parks volunteer for more than 15 years, was recently honored by the Park Board with a Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her many years of service and dedication to the organization. She also was presented with another award marking her more than 100 hours of volunteer service donated so far this year.

“Pat is a loyal, trustworthy team member,” said Cindi Nugent, Parks Volunteer Coordinator. “She has truly given of herself to make Cincinnati Parks the success it is today.”

Pat says her commitment to Cincinnati Parks began years ago when she became a volunteer at Ault Park.

“My children were raised in the neighborhood of Ault Park; it was right in our backyard,” said the 83-year-old Andersen Township resident. “Being a widow and a homemaker, I decided that volunteering at our old stomping grounds was how I wanted to give my time.”



Pat Campbell

Pat has gone from “playing in the dirt” at Ault Park to organizing the many historical documents that come to the Bettman Nature Center Library. She played a large role in helping to get Bettman’s library in working condition.

“The archival library was started eight or nine years ago,” said Pat. “There was a need to organize the many pictures, clippings and reports Cincinnati Parks collected over the years.”

Currently, Pat donates 15-20 hours of her time per week to volunteer at the library. She handles the requests for specific photos or newspaper clippings and also takes care of organizing and filing those items.

“I’m delighted to have this job,” she said. “It’s perfect for a person who’s a retired homemaker with children and grandchildren who live out of town. Now, I have time for my family.”

“Volunteering is just something I love to do,” said Pat. “It makes life interesting.” ♦

General Information:

Cincinnati Park Board
950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 352-4080 (TTY)/ Fax: 352-4096
www.cinci-parks.org

Cincinnati Parks Foundation
950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
357-2619 (TTY)/ Fax: 352-4096

Volunteering:
Cincinnati Parks Volunteers: 321-6208

Public Nature Programs:
321-6070

Krohn Conservatory:
352-4080

Reservations:
Picnic areas, shelters, bandstands and outdoor wedding areas: 357-2604

Alms, Ault and Mt. Echo pavilions;
French House; Mt. Airy lodges;
Krohn Conservatory: 351-4777

Special Use Permits:
357-2605

Information/Parks Visitor Center:
352-4080

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ParkWays

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Parks

Cincinnati Park Board • Cincinnati Parks Foundation
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Nature always
wears the colors
of the spirit.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



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